

TO: TOWN BOARD SUPERVISORS

FROM: MARY ROSS

Date: September 12th, 2010

RE: Ambulance Director's Report
(August 1st – August 31st)

Town Board Members:

Events during the month of August include:

- On 8/5, I met with 5 candidates interested in taking the EMT-B class this Fall at WITC. I went through how our service works, what's expected of an EMT with the Madeline Island Ambulance Service (including job description), how the EMT-B class (& testing) works including reimbursement, and fielded their questions. In a nutshell, to let them know that the class itself is just the beginning. I gave all 5 the application packet and by the end of the month, 4 committed to taking the class – which is wonderful. The application itself includes 5 forms as well as a reading assessment and phone interview by the EMS personnel of WITC. With 4 candidates, the paperwork and phone calls took a bit of coordinating. The people taking the class are David Marano, Joan Martin, Dan Schuppe, and Sarah Welch. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Dave Marano informed me on 9/9, the 1st day of class, that he couldn't take the class. I talked to WITC and there is a chance of another EMT-B class starting in 12/10 and finishing in early 5/11. Dave thought he'd know by November if a class would work for him so he's been enrolled in the 12/10 class so he doesn't have to re-do the entire application. While 4 new EMT's would be terrific, 3 is a whole lot better than anything lower. The Fall class runs through late March, with April being review/open practice/and some testing. The National Registry Exam is in early May. These 3 will be ready to go easily by Memorial Day Weekend 2011.
- The swim from Point-to-LaPointe was on 8/7 and we transported a participant to Duluth due to the condition he was in. The paramedics made the decision and medical control at MMC concurred. While I have no doubt the patient needed to go to Duluth, we cannot be away from our service area for 6 hours, especially in early August. If a patient needs a paramedic level of care, why are EMT's involved in the transport. I spoke to our medical director and he and I are working (rather slowly) on a guideline for calls that MMC/paramedics want us to transport to Duluth. Possible solutions include helicopter transport, Ashland paramedics intercept with an ambulance, or Gold Cross from Superior/Duluth intercept with us.
I spoke to the Bayfield Ambulance Director regarding the swim itself – 315 registered and we are in strong agreement to meet with the Coast Guard to come up with a plan for increased medical presence at this event. It is getting way toooooo big for our 2 services to handle and it may involve the event coordinators hiring outside medical help.
- The major event of the month was the conversion of the Fire & Ambulance radio system to VHF. A new repeater was installed at the tower on Miller Farm Road and new radios were distributed (3 times) and personnel trained in with them. It was a really long 8/19 & 8/20 with multiple programming issues and decisions made on the fly. By 4:30pm on 8/20, the conversion was complete and we are now interoperable with the entire State of Wisconsin. I have had many personnel express dismay at hearing other services being toned out at all hours of the day & night. This is their option to listen to though.
- I attended the EMS Council meeting at MMC on 8/26.

Respectively Submitted,

Mary Ross, Ambulance Director